

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

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R 181842Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, LY

SUBJECT: PASSPORT PROBLEM

1. ON SEPTEMBER 7, AF RECEIVED NOTE (IN ENGLISH ONLY) FROM LARG EMBASSY, WASHINGTON CONCERNING PASSPORT/VISA PROBLEM. TEXT AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE: THE EMBASSY OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC WISHES TO POINT OUT, IN REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS, THAT AMERICAN VISAS ARE STILL BEING DENIED BY THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI, LIBYA, TO THE WIVES OF LIBYAN STUDENTS DESIRING TO JOIN THEIR HUSBANDS WHO ARE CONTINUING THEIR STUDIES AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES. THE EMBASSY OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC WOULD APPRECIATE VERY MUCH THE NECESSARY INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FORWARDED TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI FOR THE GRANTING OF VISAS TO THE WIVES OF LIBYAN STUDENTS IN ORDER TO AVOID DELAY IN THE STUDENTS PLANS TO ATTEND THEIR COURSES. THE EMBASSY OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IN RECEIVING THE OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF THE CONSIDERATION GRANTED TO THIS MATTER BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. UNQUOTE.

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2. IN CONVERSATION WITH AF/N SAME DAY, LARG EMBOFF GADDOUR STRESSED URGENCY AND IMPORTANCE HIS GOVERNMENT ATTACHES TO THIS MATTER AND ASSERTED THAT HE WAS ISSUING VISAS TO ALL OIL COMPANY PERSONNEL AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. GADDOUR ALSO MADE SPECIFIC PLEAS FOR VISAS FOR TWO EMPLOYEES OF LIBYAN NATIONAL BANK, JUMA SASI SERAA AND AJAALI ABDESSLAM JEBRIN, WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR ADMISSION AT LSU.

3. DEPT INTENDS TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTE AS FOLLOWS:
QUOTE ... AS A RESULT OF THE REDUCTIONS IN THE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI WHICH WERE MADE AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC, NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE EMBASSY, INCLUDING THOSE WITH RESPECT TO PASSPORT AND VISA SERVICES, HAVE NECESSARILY BEEN CURTAILED BOTH FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS AND FOREIGNERS WHO REQUEST THEM. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY IN TRIPOLI IS CONTINUING TO ISSUE VISAS TO ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS TO THE EXTENT THAT ITS REDUCED STAFF PERMITS. NO POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN MADE TO DENY VISAS TO ANY FOREIGNER OTHERWISE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THEM.

4. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CALL TO THE ATTENTION OF THE EMBASSY THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS THAT DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS HAVE HAD IN OBTAINING VISAS TO ENTER LIBYA. SPECIFICALLY, VISAS WERE RECENTLY DENIED TO THE DEPENDENTS OF THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES OF AMERICAN OVERSEAS PETROLEUM LIMITED (AMOSEAS): A.S. BAKR, A. JANEITZ, J.F. SPANGLER, L.I. STOCKTON.

5. IN ADDITION, VISAS WERE DENIED DURING AUGUST TO THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF OTHER NEWLY-HIRED AMERICAN EMPLOYEES OF OTHER PETROLEUM COMPANIES OPERATING IN LIBYA. CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE EMBASSY NOTE OF AUGUST 28, THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD WELCOME A FAVORABLE REVIEW BY THE EMBASSY OF THE APPLICATIONS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO WISH TO PROCEED TO LIBYA FOR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS OR FAMILY REASONS. END QUOTE.

6. FYI: MOBIL REPORTED SEPTEMBER 11 THAT THEY ARE NOW LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOMMENDING THAT EMPLOYEES NOT RPT NOT TAKE DEPENDENTS TO LIBYA. MOBIL ASKED THAT THIS INFO NOT RPT NOT BE COMMUNICATED TO LARG. MOBIL REP ALSO SAID HIS COMPANY WAS NOW SEEKING VISAS ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY FROM LARG EMBASSY ROME WHICH WAS MUCH MORE COOPERATIVE THAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON. END FYI. RUSH

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